

Energy & Environment

Growing Ohio's Clean Energy Economy

Sen. Brown is committed to energy policy that decreases American dependence on foreign oil, increases energy efficiency, and creates good-paying manufacturing jobs in Ohio. He recognizes that a smart energy policy is also smart jobs policy that can help to make Ohio a leader not only in traditional fuel sources, including natural gas and coal, but also clean energy technology like wind, solar, and biomass. From the recently-opened wind farms in Van Wert and Paulding Counties, to the potential of shale development in Southeastern Ohio, Sen. Brown supports a diversified approach to solving our nation's energy challenges.

Promoting Clean Energy Manufacturing

While Ohio is a national leader in clean energy manufacturing, about 70 percent of the components of clean energy systems are built outside of the United States. Sen. Brown believes that we should not trade our dependence on foreign oil for a dependence on foreign-manufactured clean energy sources. As clean energy becomes one of the world's largest industries, manufacturing provides an opportunity for the U.S. to restore its industrial base and create good-paying American jobs.

Sen. Brown has advocated for the expansion of tax credits for manufacturers who are seeking to create new equipment used for clean energy production in the U.S. These successful tax credits, known as the 48C Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits, provide critical financing for companies. Sen. Brown introduced the *Security in Energy and Manufacturing Act of 2011* (SEAM Act) to expand the 48C credit.

Following a roundtable discussion at the University of Toledo Clean Energy Incubator with stakeholders in Northwest Ohio's solar industry, Sen. Brown introduced a bill requiring certain levels of domestic content in solar panels in order to qualify for existing solar tax credits. The bill requires 70 percent of the parts in the panel be produced domestically or, if assembled in the United States, that 50 percent of the components be manufactured domestically.

Protecting Ohio's Solar Industry from Unfair Trade

Imports of Chinese solar panels increased 1,593 percent between 2006 and 2010. Without aggressive trade enforcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Ohio solar producers will be forced to continue to compete on an uneven playing field against Chinese manufacturers. Sen. Brown has supported Ohio's solar industry by urging the Obama Administration to defend solar companies and workers from China's massive subsidies to its solar exporters. In May, he applauded the Obama's administration decision to levy tariffs of between 31 percent and 250 percent on Chinese exporters dumping artificially low priced solar panels in the American market.

Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown toured First Solar's solar module production facility in Perrysburg with U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Nicole Lamb-Hale and members of the President's Manufacturing Council.

Supporting Offshore Wind Energy in Lake Erie

Wind energy not only generates clean, renewable energy but also creates jobs. Offshore wind energy has the potential to bring thousands of new manufacturing jobs to Ohio and clean energy to millions of homes near Lake Erie. Several wind projects are up and running around the state and Lake Erie has the potential to house the United States' first freshwater offshore wind project.

Sen. Brown has used his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure that the Department of Energy's water-based wind programs consider wind generation on the Great Lakes and not simply ocean-based projects. In 2011, Sen. Brown was also an original cosponsor of a bipartisan investment tax credit for offshore wind development.

Last year, Sen. Brown announced that Case Western Reserve University, Freshwater Wind, and Nautica Windpower were awarded new federal resources to research advanced wind turbine systems that are expected to help spur new technological innovations, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in creating new offshore wind energy systems.

In December, Sen. Brown helped secure \$4 million in critical federal funds to advance offshore wind development in Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) was awarded these key resources from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish an offshore wind demonstration project on Lake Erie, the first project of its kind in the United States. LEEDCo plans to install nine 3-megawatt direct-drive wind turbines on Lake Erie, seven miles off the coast of Cleveland.

Sen. Brown continues to work closely with wind experts, developers, and universities in Northern Ohio to help coordinate offshore wind research and development and to help implement efforts to build the first freshwater wind farm in Lake Erie.

Creating Natural Gas Jobs in Ohio

The natural gas deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shale have the potential to create jobs in



Eastern Ohio, boost Ohio's steel and chemical industry, and provide a cleaner burning fuel source. Sen. Brown believes that new jobs in this industry should be going to Ohioans, rather than out-of-state workers, and that drilling companies should be using materials and supplies made and constructed by Ohio manufacturers. In April, Sen. Brown held a job fair in North Canton to connect veterans with job openings in the natural gas industry. This event was held with a major natural gas developer and was attended by more than 1,200 job-seekers.

Sen. Brown is also working to ensure that our air and water is protected for current and future generations, and that property owners leasing their land are getting a fair deal from oil and gas

companies. Empowering local communities to make decisions on this critical issue is important. Sen. Brown has expressed his concern about injection wells for disposal of wastewater from the hydrofracking process that has been linked to earthquakes in the Mahoning Valley.

Addressing High Gas Prices

Several indicators have shown that gas prices are rising in part due to excessive speculation by hedge funds in the financial markets, as has been the case in past spikes in gas prices. Sen. Brown is working to address high gas prices at the pump, including price spikes due to oil speculation, which occurs when prices are driven by investor activity, rather than traditional market forces. In numerous letters sent to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), Sen. Brown urged the agency to use its full authority to protect consumers and small businesses from artificially inflated gas prices by setting position limits to curb excessive Wall Street speculation in the oil markets. Sen. Brown has also cosponsored the *No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (NOPEC)*. This legislation would make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.



Protecting Lake Erie

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable resources and Sen. Brown is dedicated to protecting it. He is an original cosponsor of a number of bills that would improve water quality, promote economic development, and stop the spread of invasive species that harm the Great Lakes.

Improving Water Quality and Reducing Algal Blooms in Lake Erie

A clean and healthy Lake Erie benefits all Ohioans. The Western Lake Erie Basin, however, has been experiencing algal blooms that pose a threat to Ohio's economy and Ohioans' ability to enjoy the lake. Sen. Brown has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service to address head-on the challenges facing this critical watershed. In March, Sen. Brown joined Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to announce a \$2 million grant to reduce agricultural runoff from entering Lake Erie. This funding will allow farmers and producers in the watershed to employ the best conservation practices possible to reduce phosphorous levels and demonstrate the agricultural sector's role in cleaning up Lake Erie.

Stopping the Invasion of Asian Carp

Researchers have found that in many sections of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, Asian carp are the only species present. More than 185 species of invasive fish, mussels, and plants from Asia and Eastern Europe are already in the Great Lakes system, choking out native species. Sen. Brown remains concerned with the possible spread of Asian carp, an invasive species that would threaten the ecosystem of Lake Erie, into the Great Lakes.

In April, Sen. Brown cosponsored the bipartisan *Stop Asian Carp Act*, a bill aimed at preventing the potential migration of Asian carp from the Mississippi River into the Great Lakes. The bill, which built upon prior legislation that he supported, was signed into law in July and directs the Army Corps of Engineers to study the watersheds of the Illinois, Chicago, and Calumet Rivers to determine the feasibility and best way to implement hydrologic separation of the rivers from the Great Lakes. The study would address flooding, wastewater, stormwater, and safety concerns. It would also look at alternative pathways for barge and recreational boating traffic. The bill would also direct the U.S. Geological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor and survey the waters of the Great Lakes basin to identify additional threats from Asian carp, and to identify means of prevention. Sen. Brown had previously included similar language in the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations bill for Energy and Water.

Sen. Brown has also urged greater collaboration between the Canadian and U.S. governments to ensure that live Asian carp are not illegally smuggled into Canada. Sen. Brown was concerned that a lack of information sharing between Customs and Border Patrol agencies could result in the introduction of this invasive species directly into Lake Erie.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Sen. Brown has been a leading champion of restoring Lake Erie to full health and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a dedicated fund for ecosystem restoration, improvements to water quality, and wildlife and fish restoration. Since its inception in 2009, more than \$20 million in funding is at work in Ohio to clean up Lake Erie, restoring ecosystems and improving fisheries in the watershed, promoting cleaner water, and keeping invasive species out of the lake.

Protecting Grand Lake St. Marys

For several years a toxic, blue-green algae has been growing in the waters of Grand Lake St. Marys leaving the lake unsafe for swimming and contributing to a decline in regional tourism which has led to increased economic hardship for local businesses. Sen. Brown has worked to secure support for conservation efforts focused on water quality of the Grand Lake St. Marys region and related efforts that encourage continued work to improve the health of the lake.

For several years, Sen. Brown has supported locally-led efforts to slow the growth of algae and also to reduce the flow of nutrients into the lake. In March, Sen. Brown announced an award for dedicated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding through the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service to be used to help farmers in the watershed finance and adopt new practices—such as better manure storage facilities and edge-of-field monitoring—that will contribute to improving the long-term health of the lake.

Grand Lake St. Marys has been an economic anchor of Mercer and Auglaize counties and Sen. Brown remains committed to pursuing all possible solutions to restore it.